

Regular Meeting of the Advisory Board of Recreation and Parks
Held at the Falls Church Community Center
223 Little Falls Street, Falls Church, Virginia 22046

Minutes
January 3, 2007

1. Call to Order

Mr. Meeks called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Members present were Joyce Berg, Kathy Chandler, Rob Meeks, Gerard Mene, Charley O'Hara, and Ruth Rodgers. Staff present was Howard Herman, Director of Recreation, and Linda Weikle, Senior Administrative Assistant.

2. Receipt of Public Petitions and Board Member Petitions

Mr. Meeks asked if there were any petitions from the public or board members. There were none.

3. Minutes

Ms. Berg moved to approve the December 6, 2006 minutes. Mr. Mene seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the motion passed 5-0 (Ms. Rodgers was absent).

4. Recreation Director's Report

Mr. Herman reported:

- The youth and adult basketball leagues have started.
- The Farmers' Market has benefited from the good weather. Farmers are happy with the sales.
- Watch Night had high attendance in the early evening and attracted many families with young children. The City's contribution in funding and staffing equaled about \$20,000.
- The Middle School New Year's Eve Party had about 150 students in attendance, with 75 of those registering the day of the event. The attendance was higher than last year.
- The Winter/Spring brochure is the first one completed by the contracted graphics artist. It is enhanced with photos and has a nice layout. It is the first step towards better quality brochures.
- The work on the field at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School has been delayed by rain. This may cause a field shortage in the spring.

- The engineer is working on the generator design and bids are expected to go out in about a month.

5. New Business

a. CIP and Operating Budget

Mr. Herman noted that the Open Space Acquisition CIP item was not included in the CIP request. The Planning Commission will have the CIP on its agenda Jan. 16 and Feb. 2. Mr. Herman will advise Board members at which meeting the Recreation items will be discussed.

The operating budget is due to Finance Jan. 16. Mr. Herman will be considering raising revenue to cover new personnel costs. The Board requested a report on gym fees for a future meeting.

b. West End Park Public Hearing

Mr. Herman briefly presented the West End Park Conceptual Plan.

The meeting was opened to the public.

Tim Twinam, 205 Grove Ave.:

- Passive park concept should be applied to the new land acquisition.
- Seek an easement from Falls Avenue.
- Perform a comprehensive brush clean-up.

Cathy Kleiman, 203 Grove Ave.:

- Combination of properties needs to be done. (Mr. Herman noted it should be recorded in February or March.)
- Access from Falls Avenue is important.
- The description of the parks as passive and active use has caused some concern among the neighbors about active use. They would prefer that it primarily be classified as passive.
- Please add more picnic tables to the park.
- Note timing element and buffer mentioned in the neighbors' plan for the removal of invasive plants. They would like the plan to say something like "coordination of timing so replacement happens as soon as removal."
- She has a list of neighbors who would be willing to review plans for the park.
- Section II, D., second paragraph of the Conceptual Plan: It's important that the word "informally" stay in the plan. The neighbors do not want tennis or basketball courts at the park.

John Murphy, 308 Chestnut St.:

- It's important that the parcel consolidation be included in the plan.

Tony D'Agostino, 1017 Birch St.:

- If the park is designed properly, it can accommodate the services discussed in the plan. The landscape firm chosen to design the park will be of interest to him, and

he's looking forward to seeing the design plan. If it has as skate park element, then it is an active park. Holding public hearings for the community to provide input to the design is critical.

Jolynn Loftus, 1200 Offutt Dr.:

- Teenagers use the park.
- Keep it a peaceful park.
- Be aware of the high maintenance that the park will require

Tim Coffin, 1200 Offutt Dr.:

- Looks like a good plan. He'll be interested in seeing the design plan.

Board members discussed the bollards and landscape buffers along Broad Street, the date of the property acquisition, ditch clean-up, typographical errors, and attaching a map or sketch to the plan.

Mr. Herman said the plan would be reviewed again in February. Big Chimneys Park will be the next park up for review.

6. Old Business

a. Lee Street

The City is moving forward with a contract to purchase a portion of property at 217 Lee St., adjacent to the Hamlett/Rees Park.

7. Other Business

Mr. Meeks announced that he would be attending a meeting for the chairs of the City's Boards and Commissions, and asked Board members if they had any comments for him to share at the meeting.

8. Adjournment

Ms. Rodgers moved to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Berg seconded the motion. Following a unanimous voice vote, Mr. Meeks adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

(Approved February 7, 2007)